

Utilizing Interdisciplinary Courses in Compliance with Highly Qualified Teacher Policies

The Kentucky Board of Education allows a school district to substitute an applied or interdisciplinary course for a required core academic course if the alternative course provides rigorous content and addresses the same applicable components of the required course. This option provides high schools the opportunity to offer courses which have the same academic rigor as traditional courses, but the content is delivered through a more contextual hands-on approach.

Interdisciplinary career and technical/core academic courses require that a core content teacher certified in the content area and a career technical teacher certified in the respective career and technical area work together in planning, teaching, and evaluating student learning to ensure that all aspects of the Program of Studies for the specific academic course is addressed.

By the end of the 2005-06 school year, core content teachers must meet the “highly qualified” teacher criteria as defined in the No Child Left Behind Act. Therefore, it is a requirement that a teacher who meets the Highly Qualified Teacher definition must provide the instruction regarding the core content concept.

The U.S. Department of Education has released a version of the Title II-Highly Qualified Teachers and Improving Teacher Quality State Grants Non-Regulatory Guidance. While this guidance does not deviate extensively from January 2004 version, it does introduce new questions and expands on previously determined policy – including team teaching and career technical education teachers. If the highly qualified teacher of mathematics and science is collaborating with the career and technical education teacher in the design of the lessons, teaching the mathematics or science concepts and grading the assignments and assessments, the course can be considered as taught by a highly qualified teacher. While the career and technical education teacher may be in a better position to set the context for the application of a particular mathematics or science context, either teacher may introduce the concept. The concept must, however, be thoroughly taught by the mathematics or science teacher (ie. highly qualified teacher).

In order to meet the highly qualified teacher criteria, a teacher must meet these requirements:

- Hold at least a bachelor’s degree
- Hold full Kentucky certification, and
- Demonstrate competence in the core content subject being taught.

In order to determine if a teacher meets highly qualified criteria, log on to the EPSB website at <https://wd.kyepsb.net/EPSB.WebApps/HQCalculator>.

Entering Interdisciplinary Courses in STI

Once the teacher demographics and course information is entered in STI, the teacher is assigned to a course using the Master Schedule screen. At this point the teacher of the course must be identified as “highly qualified”. The additional teacher screen allows the district to identify the other interdisciplinary teacher. However, STI does not allow the additional teacher to be identified as “highly qualified”. Therefore, it is recommended the “highly qualified” core content teacher be identified as the teacher of the course and the career and technical teacher is identified as the additional teacher.